

By: Ellis

S.B. No. 436

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of hybrid motor vehicles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 224.153, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) A motor vehicle displaying the "hybrid vehicle" insignia authorized by Section 502.1861 in an easily readable location on the back of the vehicle may use a high occupancy vehicle lane regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle unless the use would impair the receipt of federal transit funds.

SECTION 2. Subtitle G, Title 6, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 371 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 371. PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO MORE THAN

ONE TYPE OF TOLL PROJECT

Sec. 371.001. VEHICLES DISPLAYING "HYBRID VEHICLE" INSIGNIA. (a) In this section:

(1) "Toll project" means a toll project described by Section 201.001(b), regardless of whether the toll project is:

(A) a part of the state highway system; or
(B) subject to the jurisdiction of the department.

(2) "Toll project entity" means an entity authorized by law to acquire, design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain a toll project, including:

1 (A) the department under Chapter 227 or 228;

2 (B) a regional tollway authority under Chapter
3 366;

4 (C) a regional mobility authority under Chapter
5 370; or

6 (D) a county under Chapter 284.

7 (b) A toll project entity may not require a motor vehicle
8 displaying the "hybrid vehicle" insignia authorized by Section
9 502.1861 in an easily readable location on the back of the vehicle
10 to pay a toll for the use of a toll project.

11 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 502, Transportation Code,
12 is amended by adding Section 502.1861 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 502.1861. "HYBRID VEHICLE" INSIGNIA FOR CERTAIN MOTOR
14 VEHICLES. (a) At the time of registration or reregistration of the
15 motor vehicle, the department shall issue a specially designed
16 "hybrid vehicle" insignia for a motor vehicle that draws propulsion
17 energy from both gasoline or conventional diesel fuel and from a
18 rechargeable energy storage system.

19 (b) The department shall issue a "hybrid vehicle" insignia
20 under this section without the payment of any additional fee to a
21 person who:

22 (1) applies to the department on a form provided by the
23 department; and

24 (2) submits proof that the motor vehicle being
25 registered is a vehicle described by Subsection (a).

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.